

of suspending that law, by calling the militia into ser-
 vice for a term "not exceeding six months, if, in his opinion,
 the public interest requires it." The power thus
 vested in him, was not extended to the Governor of Tennessee,
 & could be delegated to him only by authority of the former.
 If, then, Governor Blount, in the overflow of his zeal, or-
 dered out these men for a term of six months, without
 authority from the proper source, he was guilty of the in-
 surpation of a power, that had been cautiously confided
 to the Chief Magistrate of the Union; & all the subse-
 quent acts, in the detention, trial & execution of those men,
 were properly illegal & oppressive. They have failed to
 prove that any such authority ever was given, & the ex-
 hibition of it has been repeatedly challenged by the friends
 of the Administration. Mr. Chas. J. Stovall, the Chief
 Clerk of the War Department, in a certificate accom-
 panying the documents, states, that "it does not appear,
 from the records of the Department, that any application
 was made by the Gov. of Tennessee, to the War Department,
 on the subject of the length of service of the detachment
 of the Tennessee militia detailed under the orders of the
 Governor of that State, issued on the 20th day of May, 1814,
 & afterwards placed under the command of Lieut. Col.
 Phil. Pipkin; or that any orders, general or special,
 were made or issued by the President of the United States,
 or by the Secretary of War, concerning or relating to the
 length of service of that detachment." If this certificate
 were untrue, the falsehood had long since been exposed,
 as the public have daily & uninterrupted access to the
 records of the Department.

I will offer another argument to sustain my position. The
 many detachments of militia that had been called into the
 field, for the prosecution of the war with the Creek Indians,
 were required to serve terms of only three months, at a time